

# Fantastic Four®

DISASSEMBLED

**MARVEL**

519

WAID  
WIERINGO  
KESEL

SUE--!



RI  
KK  
04  
MOUNT



# THE FANTASTIC FOUR

4

A team—and a family—of adventurers, explorers and imaginauts, the Fantastic Four lead lives both ordinary—and extraordinary. As of today:

3

An alien being named Zius has been protecting innocents from the world-eating menace known as Galactus. Using advanced science, Zius has developed an "intergalactic shareware" technology capable of rendering entire planets invisible to Galactus's detection.

2

Zius, however, has recently learned that in this vast universe there is one unique being, resident of a distant mudball named "Earth," who has the natural ability to nullify his invisibility shields. Threatening all of Manhattan Island with his miles-high starships, Zius has drawn forth that one being marked for death before Galactus can someday exploit her power.

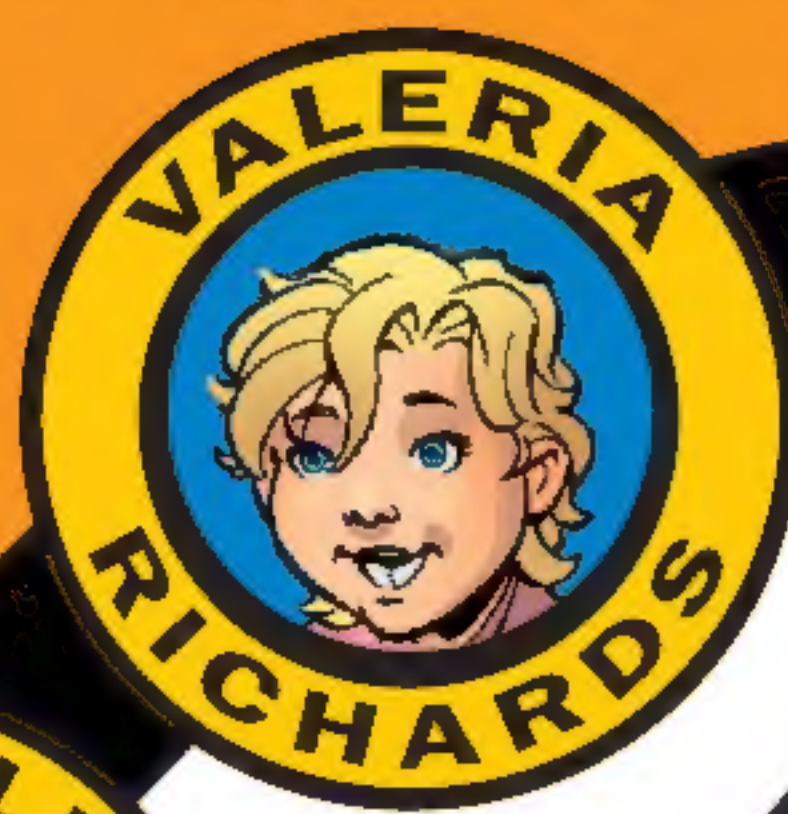
1

Her name is Susan Richards.



STAN LEE PRESENTS

## "FOURTITUDE"



MARK WAID  
writer

MIKE WIERINGO  
penciler

KARL KESEL  
inker

PAUL MOUNTS  
colorist

VIRTUAL CALLIGRAPHY'S  
RANDY GENTILE  
letterer

SCHMIDT, WILEY & LAZER  
assistant editors

TOM BREVOORT  
editor

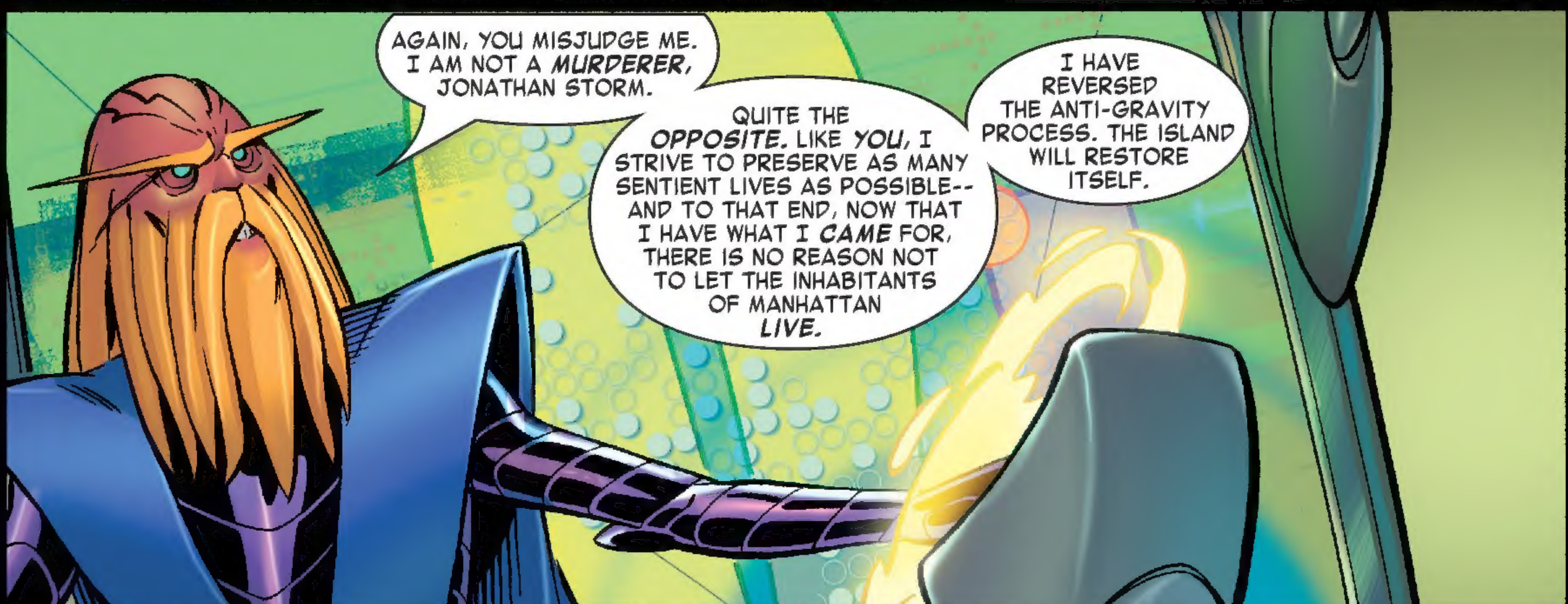
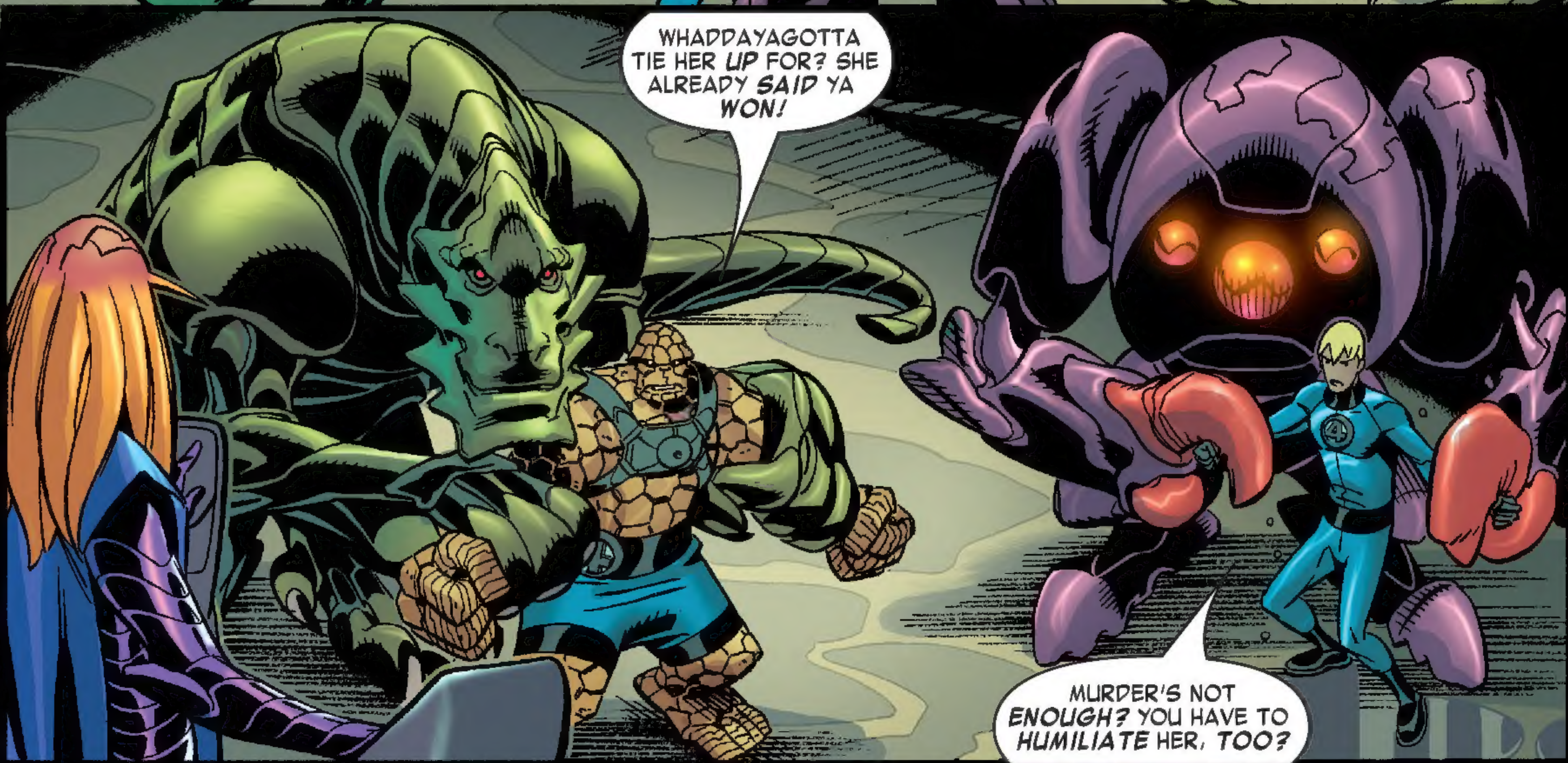
JOE QUESADA  
editor in chief

DAN BUCKLEY  
publisher

STAN LEE & JACK KIRBY  
fourmost

## Part 3 of 3







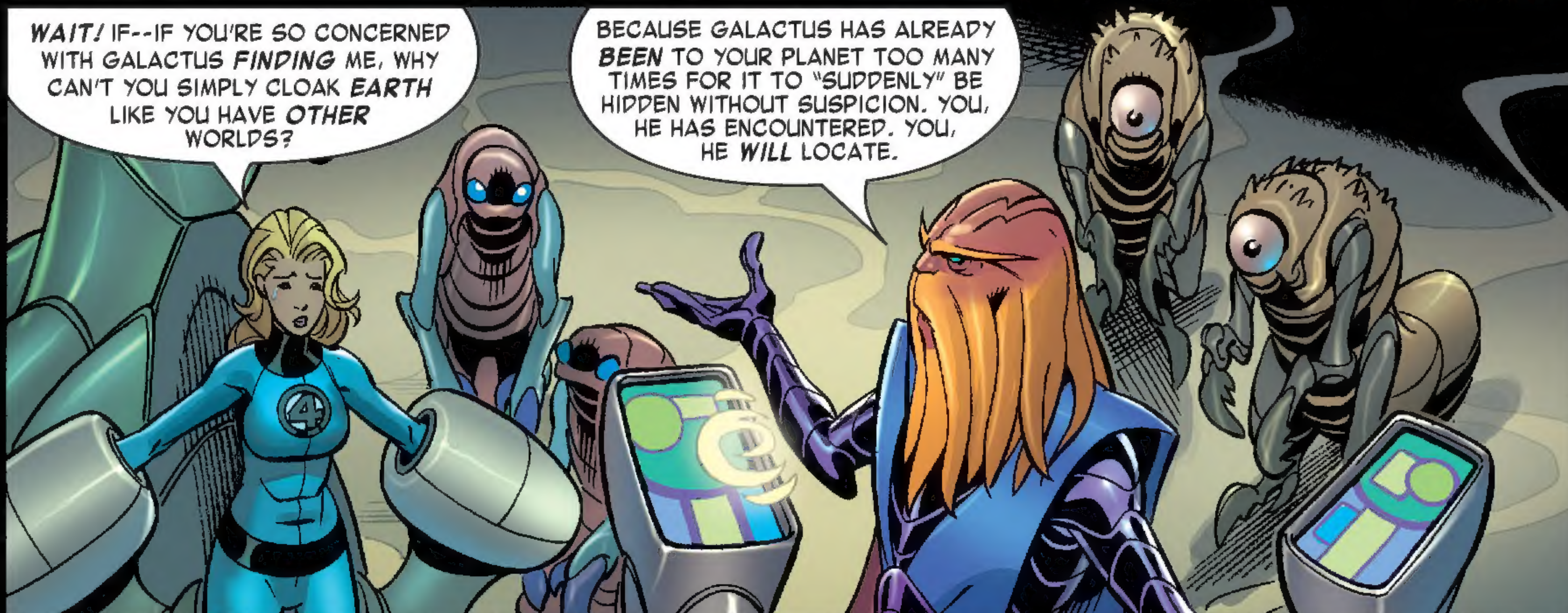


YOU HEAR THAT, STRETCHO? THAT FREES YOU UP! GET OVER HERE!

YOU THERE?

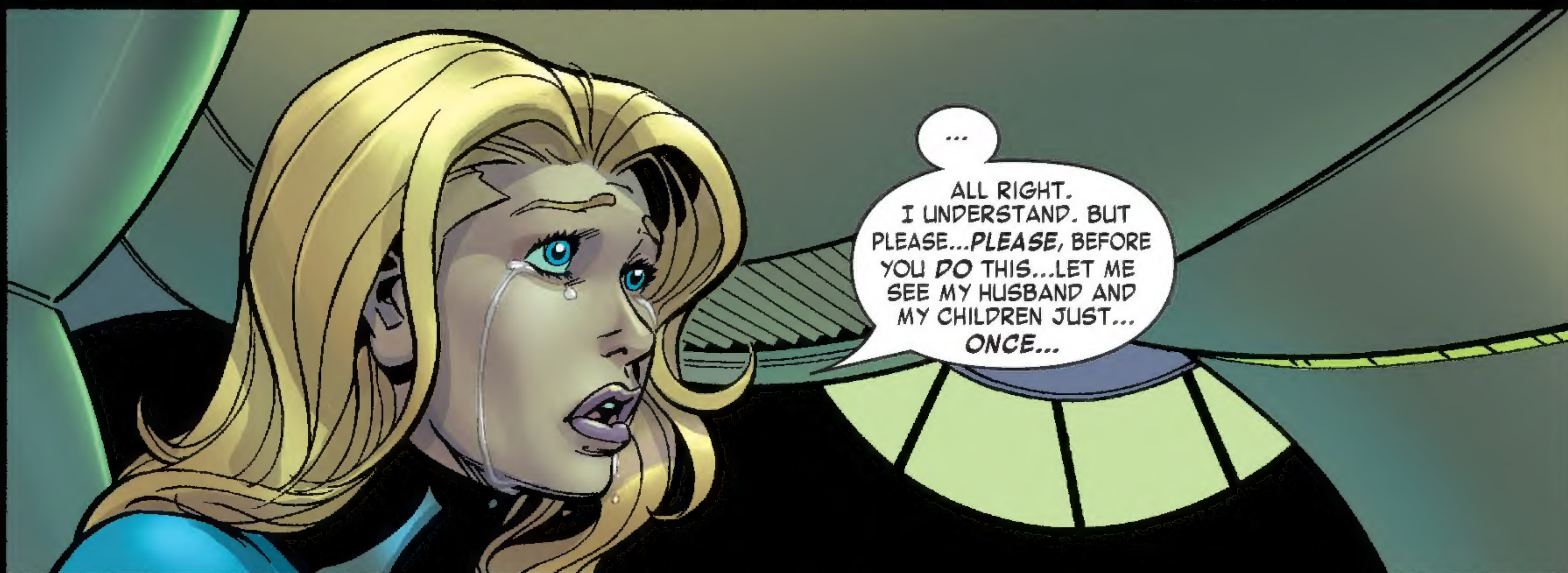
AW, F'R THE LUVVA MY AUNT PETUNIA...

STRETCHO?



WAIT! IF--IF YOU'RE SO CONCERNED WITH GALACTUS FINDING ME, WHY CAN'T YOU SIMPLY CLOAK EARTH LIKE YOU HAVE OTHER WORLDS?

BECAUSE GALACTUS HAS ALREADY BEEN TO YOUR PLANET TOO MANY TIMES FOR IT TO "SUDDENLY" BE HIDDEN WITHOUT SUSPICION. YOU, HE HAS ENCOUNTERED. YOU, HE WILL LOCATE.



...  
ALL RIGHT. I UNDERSTAND. BUT PLEASE...PLEASE, BEFORE YOU DO THIS...LET ME SEE MY HUSBAND AND MY CHILDREN JUST... ONCE...



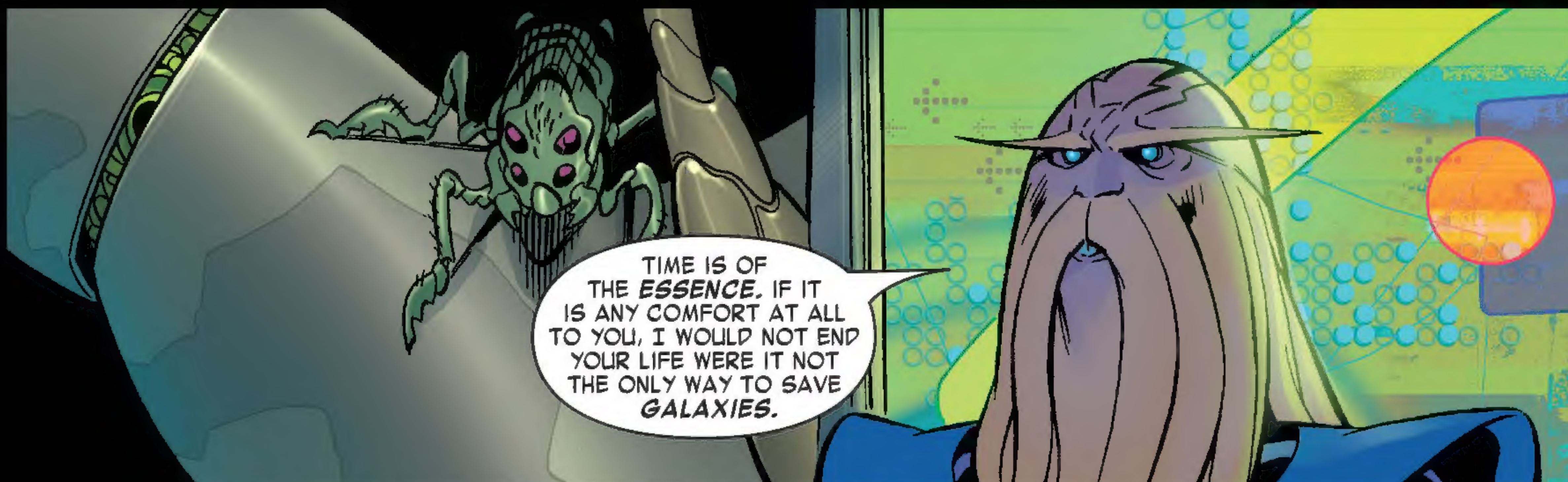
YOU DON'T GOTTA **BEG** IN FRONT O' THIS CREEP, SUZIE! YOU'LL SEE THE KIDS **PLENTY**, 'CAUSE WE AIN'T LETTIN' IT **END** LIKE THIS!

RIGHT, JUNIOR?









TIME IS OF THE *ESSENCE*. IF IT IS ANY COMFORT AT ALL TO YOU, I WOULD NOT END YOUR LIFE WERE IT NOT THE ONLY WAY TO SAVE GALAXIES.



THEN DO IT ALREADY! STOP DRAWING IT OUT AND DO IT!

THERE IS ONE LAST NECESSARY PRECAUTION TO TAKE.



"DESPITE YOUR PROMISE OF *SACRIFICE*, WHICH I BELIEVE TO BE GENUINE, THE INSTINCT FOR SELF-PRESERVATION IS *FIERCE*."

REED, IF YOU C'N HEAR MY VOICE, WE NEED JA!  
NOW!



"THIS DEVICE WILL PREVENT YOUR FORCE-FIELD POWERS FROM SUBCONSCIOUSLY ACTIVATING TO FORESTALL THE *INEVITABLE*."

SUE, FIGHT HIM! DON'T WORRY ABOUT US!  
DO SOMETHING!



SHE *IS*. SHE IS DEMONSTRATING THE CHARACTERISTIC FOR WHICH YOUR RACE IS MOST WIDELY KNOWN.

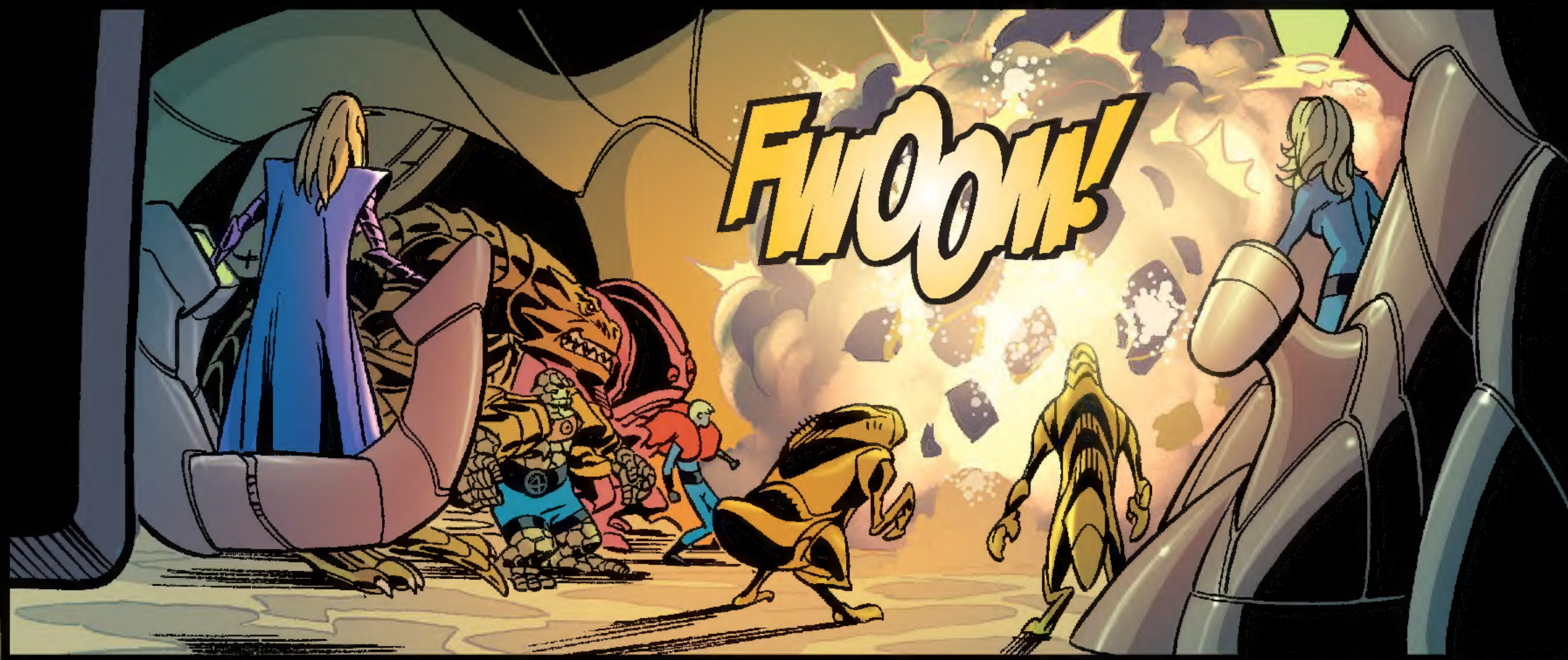
SHE IS BEING NOBLE.



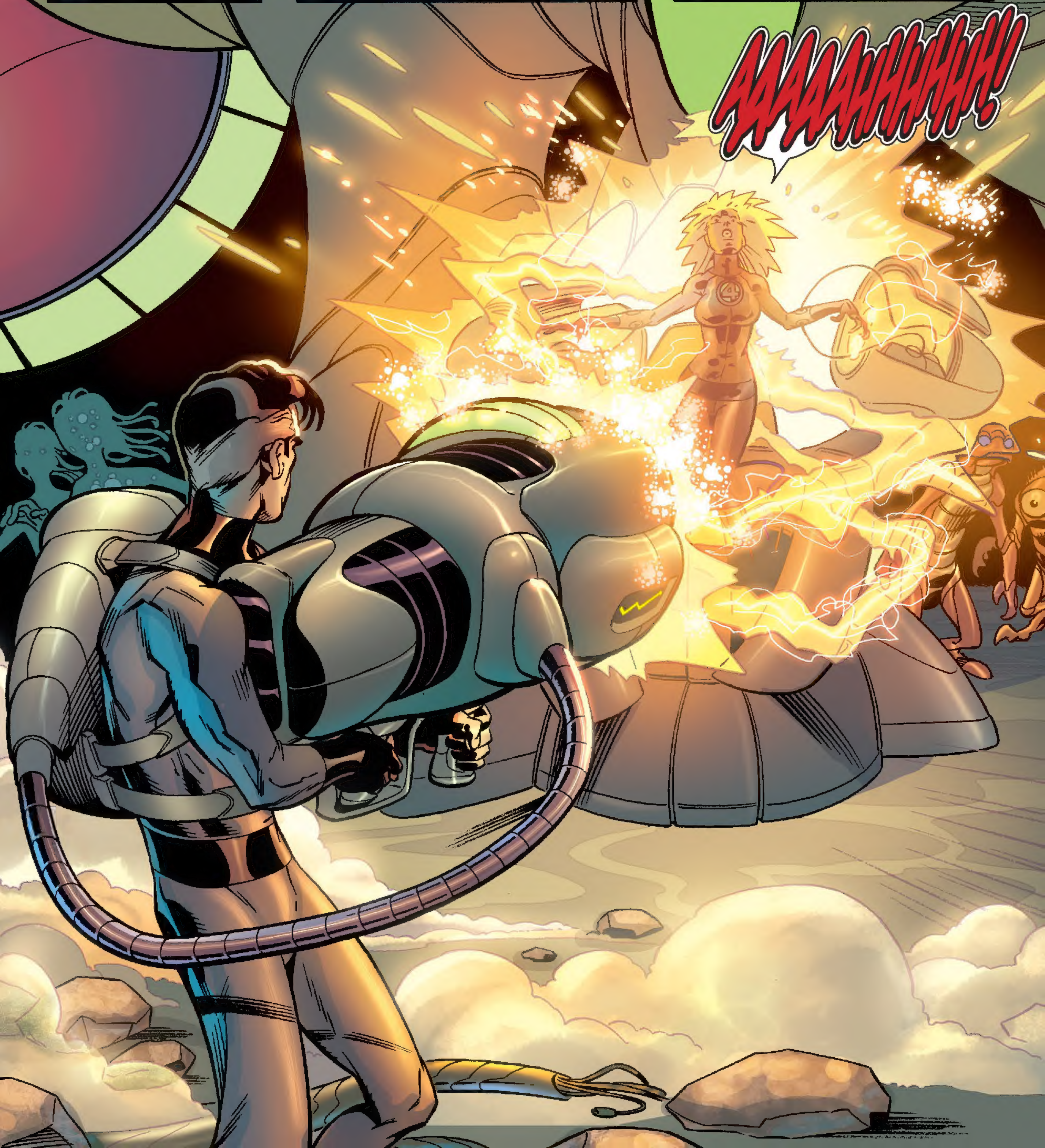
AND THE COSMOS IS GRATEFUL.

KLIN

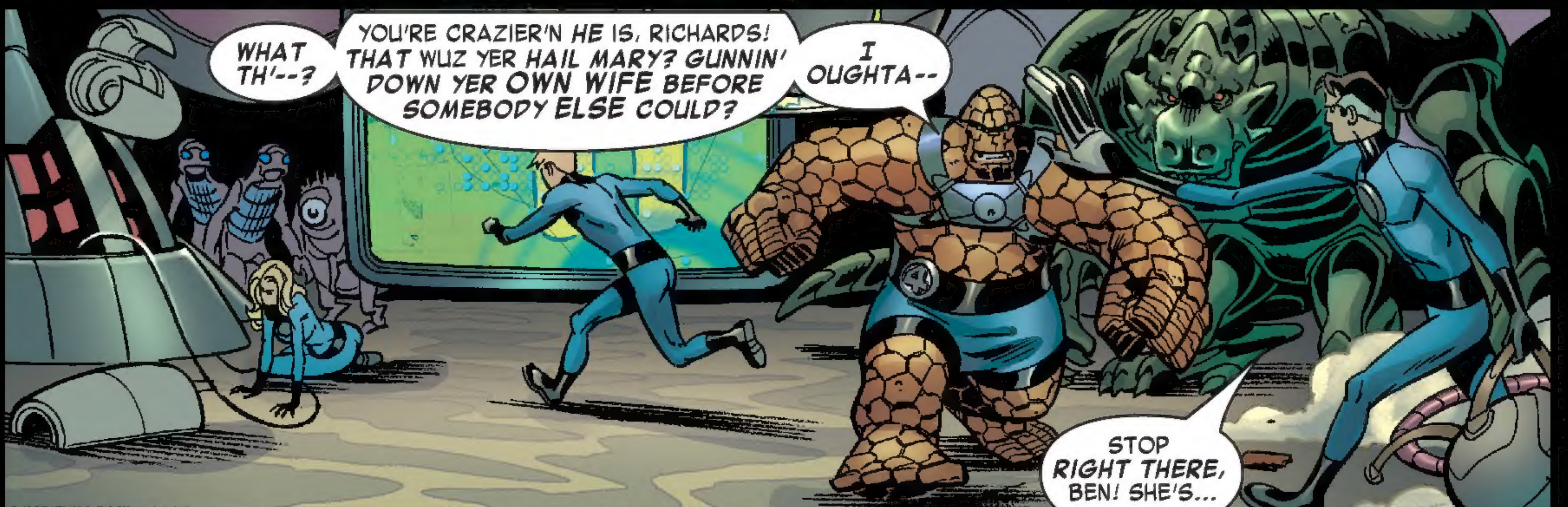




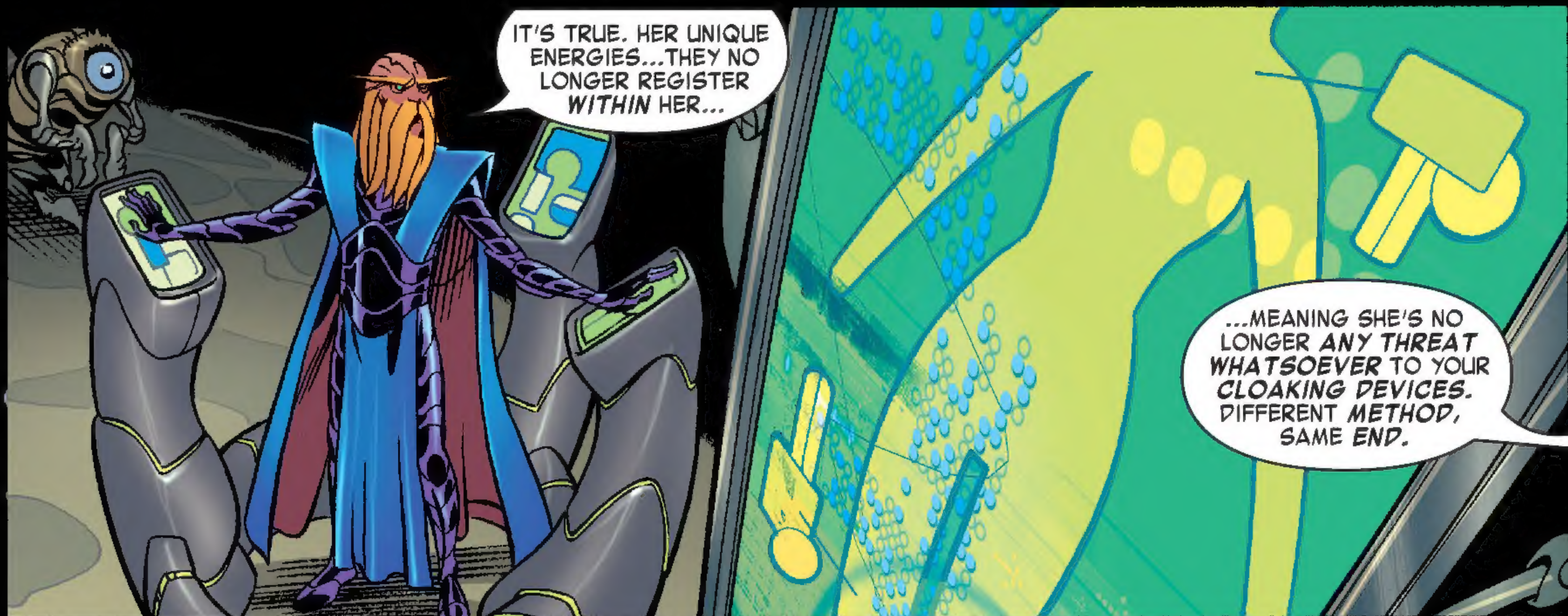












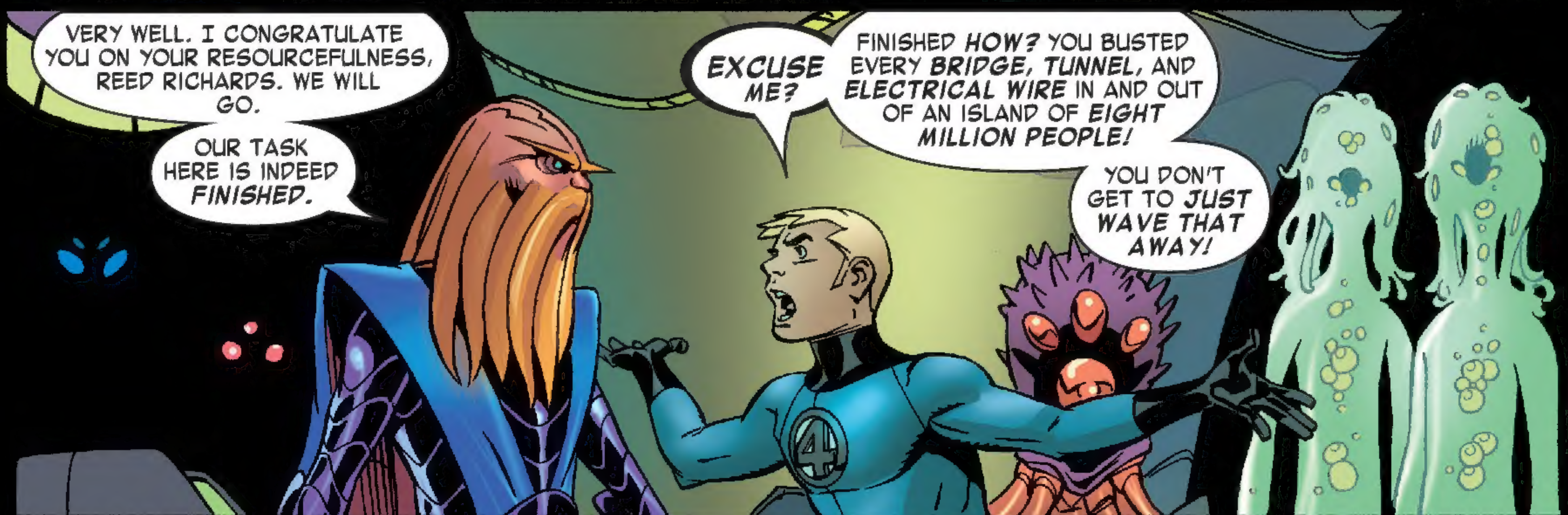
IT'S TRUE. HER UNIQUE ENERGIES...THEY NO LONGER REGISTER WITHIN HER...

...MEANING SHE'S NO LONGER ANY THREAT WHATSOEVER TO YOUR CLOAKING DEVICES. DIFFERENT METHOD, SAME END.



IT'S A *SACRIFICE*--ONE THAT WILL AFFECT MY WIFE FOR SOME TIME TO *COME*--BUT RATHER THAN HAVE HER BE A PAWN BETWEEN *ALIEN DEMIGODS*, I'VE TAKEN HER OFF THE *BOARD*.

NOW... GET OFF MY PLANET.



VERY WELL. I CONGRATULATE YOU ON YOUR RESOURCEFULNESS, REED RICHARDS. WE WILL GO.

OUR TASK HERE IS INDEED FINISHED.

EXCUSE ME?

FINISHED HOW? YOU BUSTED EVERY BRIDGE, TUNNEL, AND ELECTRICAL WIRE IN AND OUT OF AN ISLAND OF EIGHT MILLION PEOPLE!

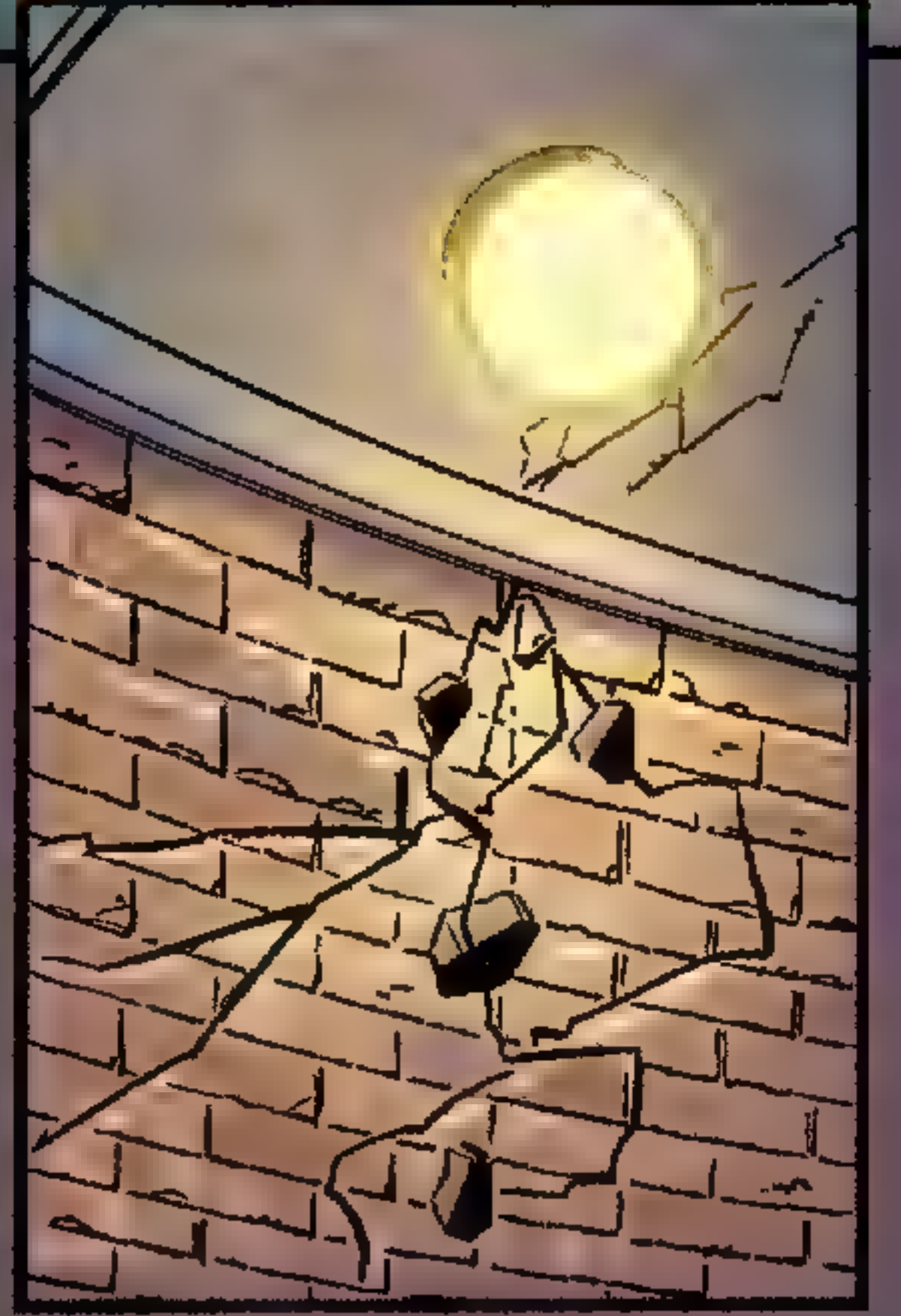
YOU DON'T GET TO JUST WAVE THAT AWAY!



ACTUALLY...

...I DO.



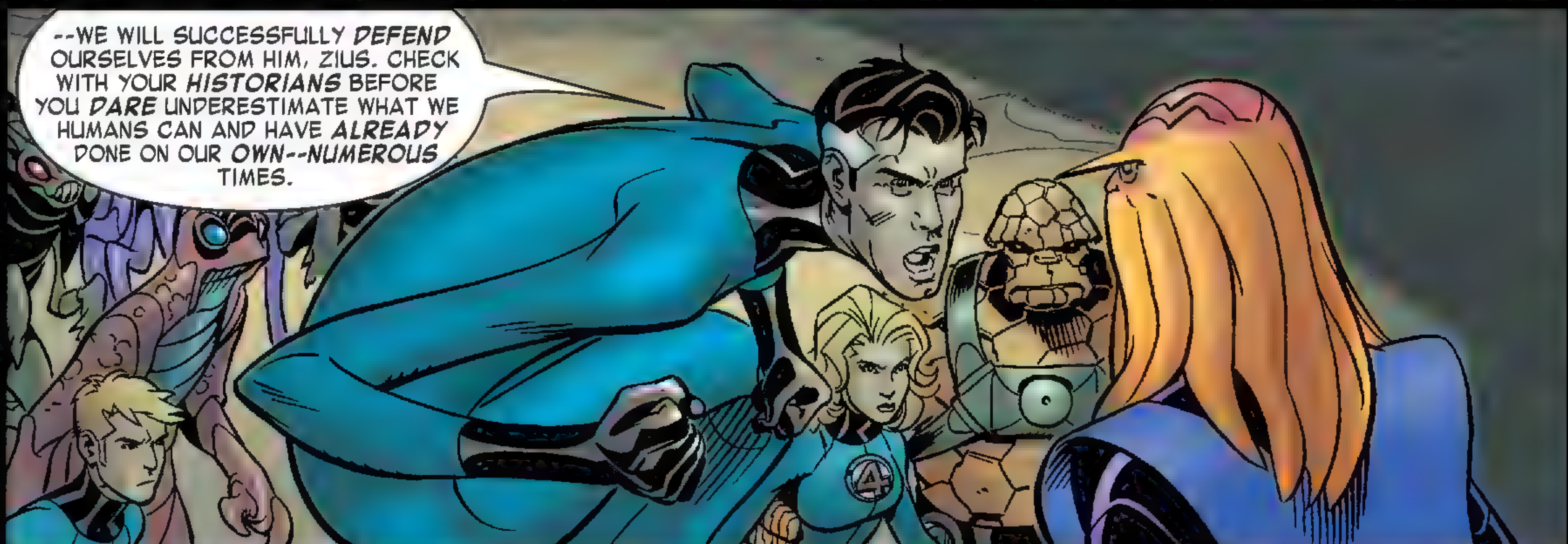




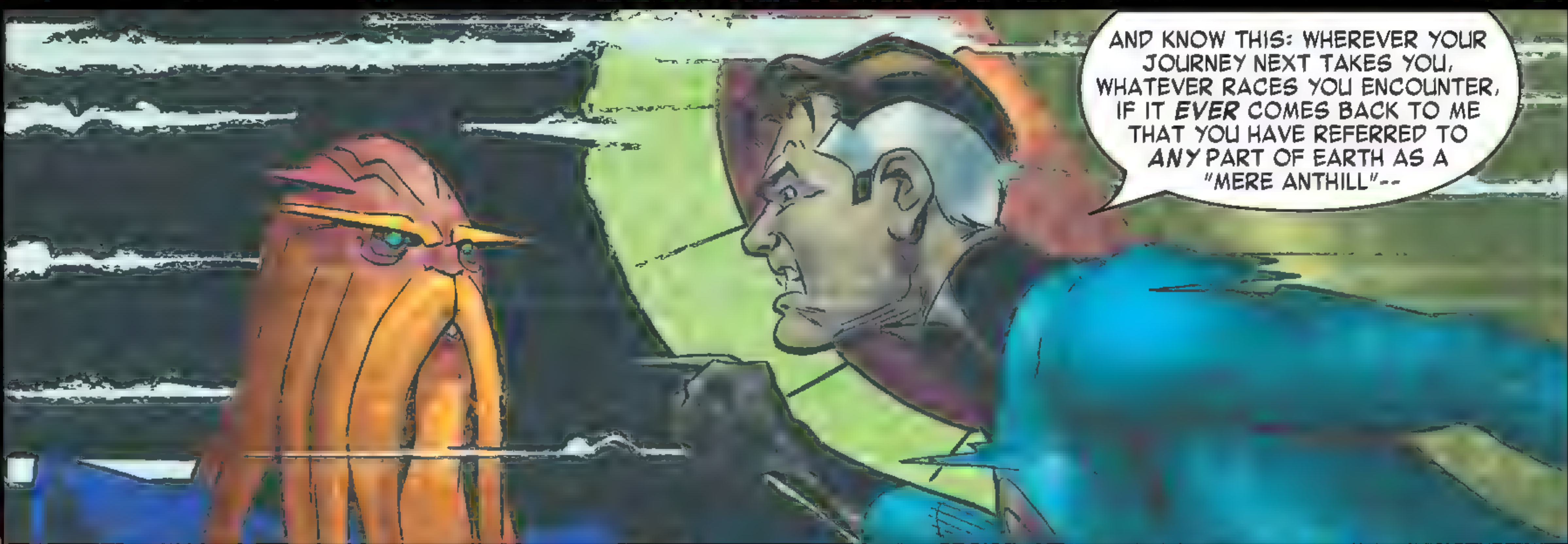


YOUR LAND MASS IS RESTORED. WE WILL RESUME OUR CRUSADE. BE WARNED, HOWEVER--IN ALL LIKELIHOOD, SUSAN'S SACRIFICE WILL NOT SPARE EARTH FROM GALACTUS'S WRATH FOREVER.

SHOULD HE SOMEDAY APPEAR OVER YOUR SKIES--



--WE WILL SUCCESSFULLY *DEFEND* OURSELVES FROM HIM, ZIUS. CHECK WITH YOUR *HISTORIANS* BEFORE YOU *DARE* UNDERESTIMATE WHAT WE HUMANS CAN AND HAVE *ALREADY* DONE ON OUR OWN--NUMEROUS TIMES.



AND KNOW THIS: WHEREVER YOUR JOURNEY NEXT TAKES YOU, WHATEVER RACES YOU ENCOUNTER, IF IT *EVER* COMES BACK TO ME THAT YOU HAVE REFERRED TO ANY PART OF EARTH AS A "MERE ANTHILL"--



--THE FANTASTIC FOUR WILL MAKE YOU REGRET IT.



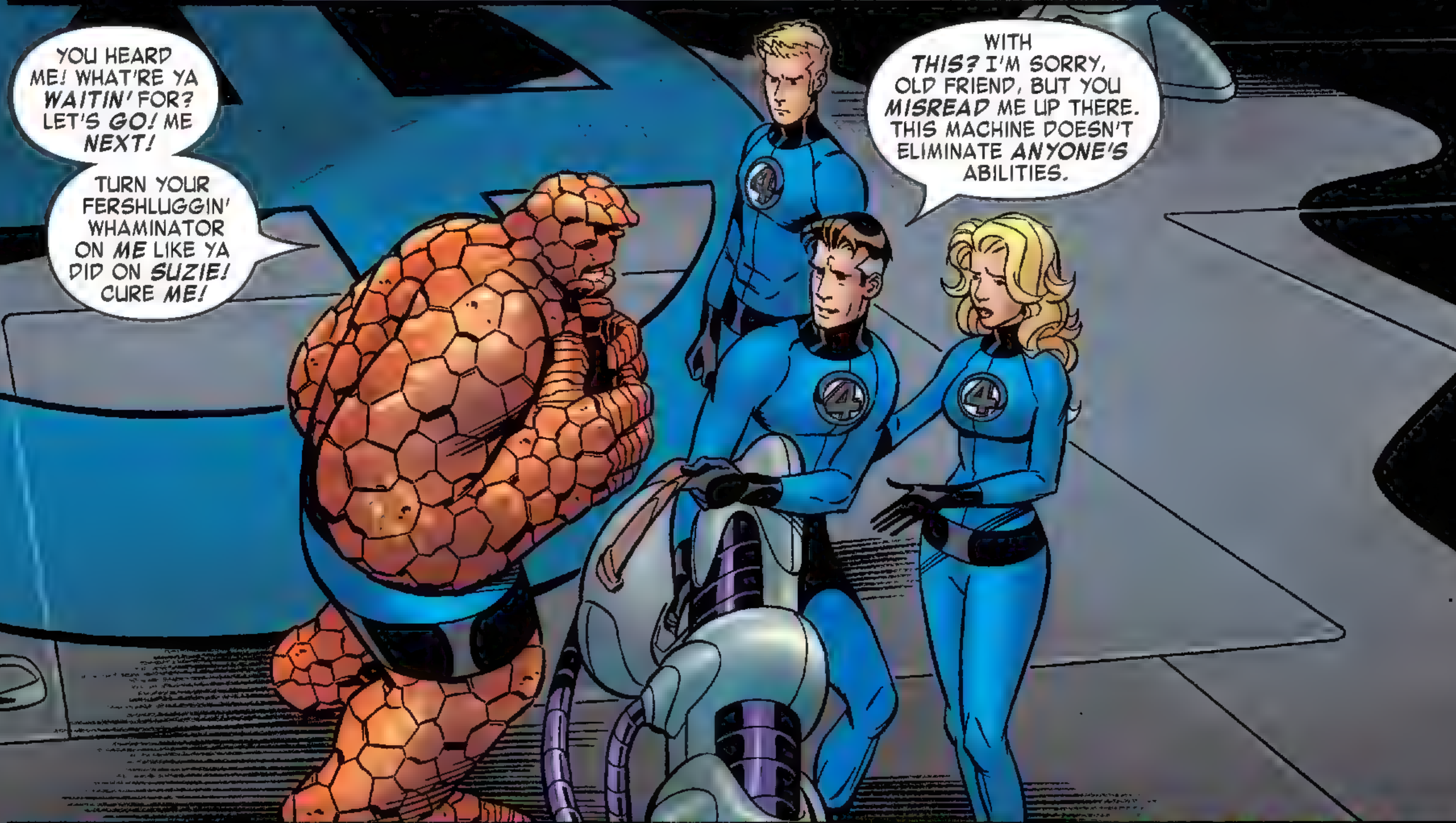


WHEW.  
I'LL SAY.

WAIT  
A MINUTE.  
SINCE WHEN IS  
"WHEW" A REED  
SOUND? WHAT  
"WHEW"?

THAT WAS  
A COLOSSAL  
GAMBLE. SUE, I'M  
SO SORRY. LET  
ME EXPLA

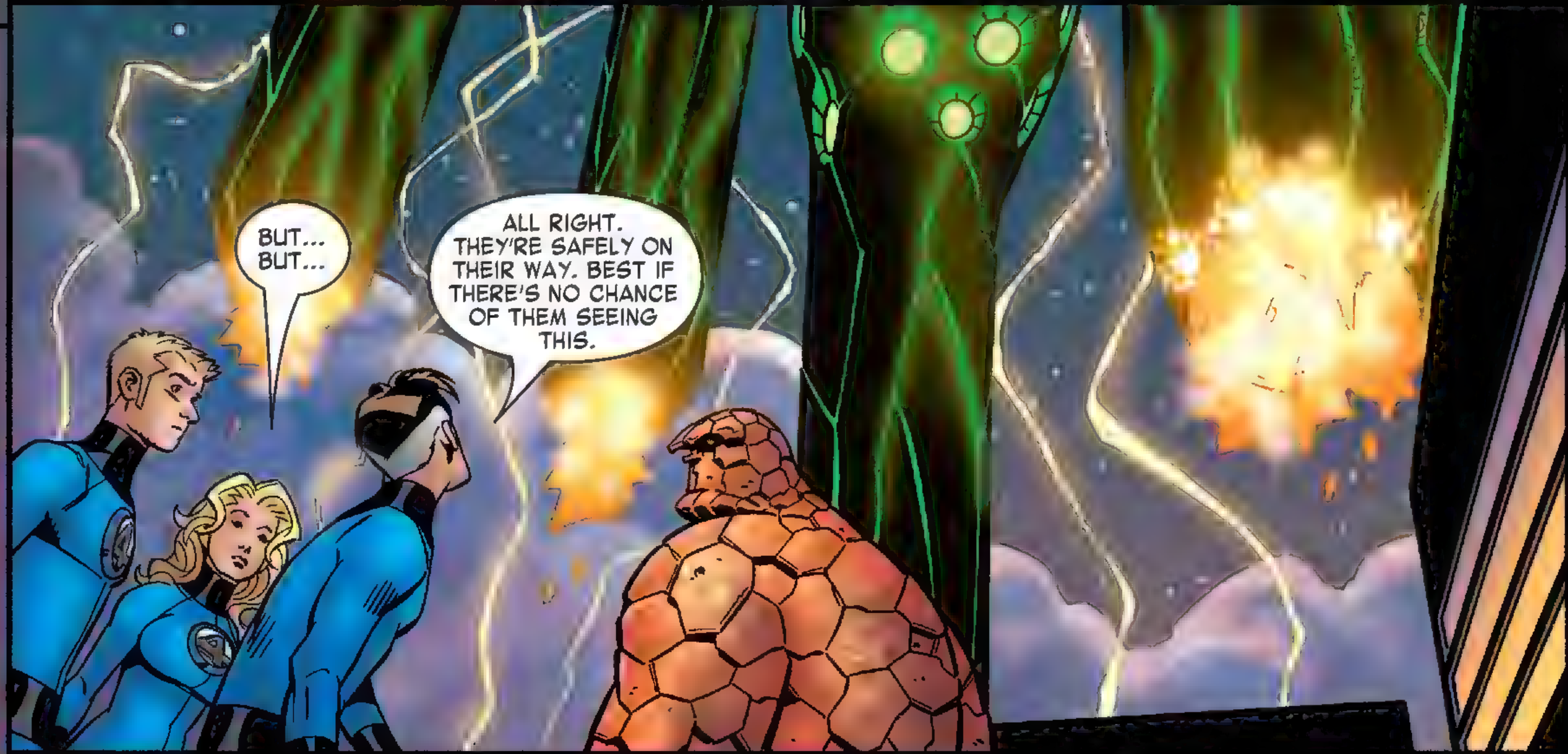
MY  
TURN!



YOU HEARD  
ME! WHAT'RE YA  
WAITIN' FOR?  
LET'S GO! ME  
NEXT!

TURN YOUR  
FERSHLUGGIN'  
WHAMINATOR  
ON ME LIKE YA  
DID ON SUZIE!  
CURE ME!

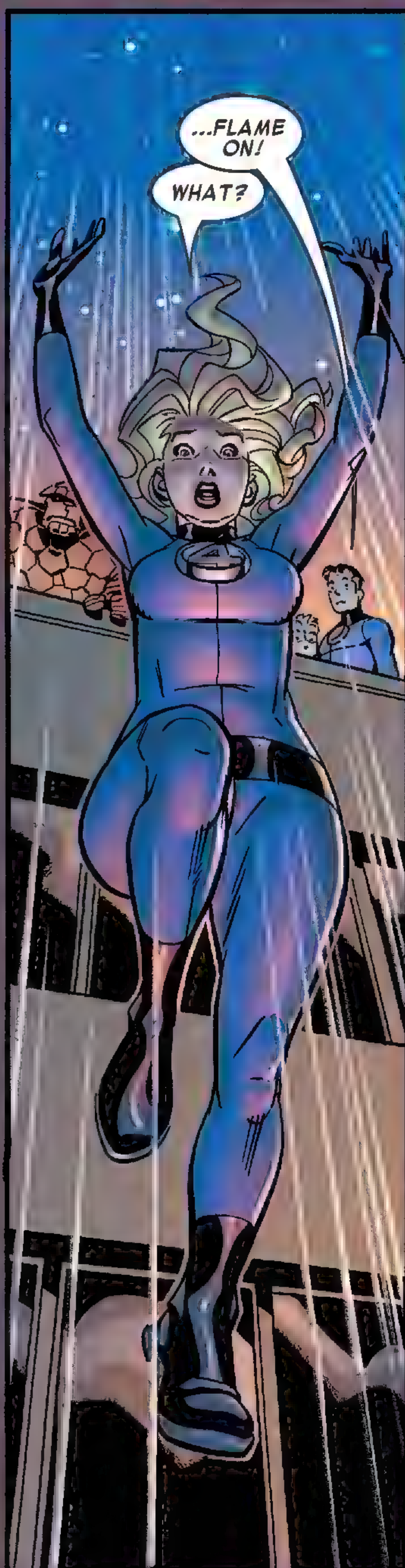
WITH  
THIS? I'M SORRY,  
OLD FRIEND, BUT YOU  
MISREAD ME UP THERE.  
THIS MACHINE DOESN'T  
ELIMINATE ANYONE'S  
ABILITIES.



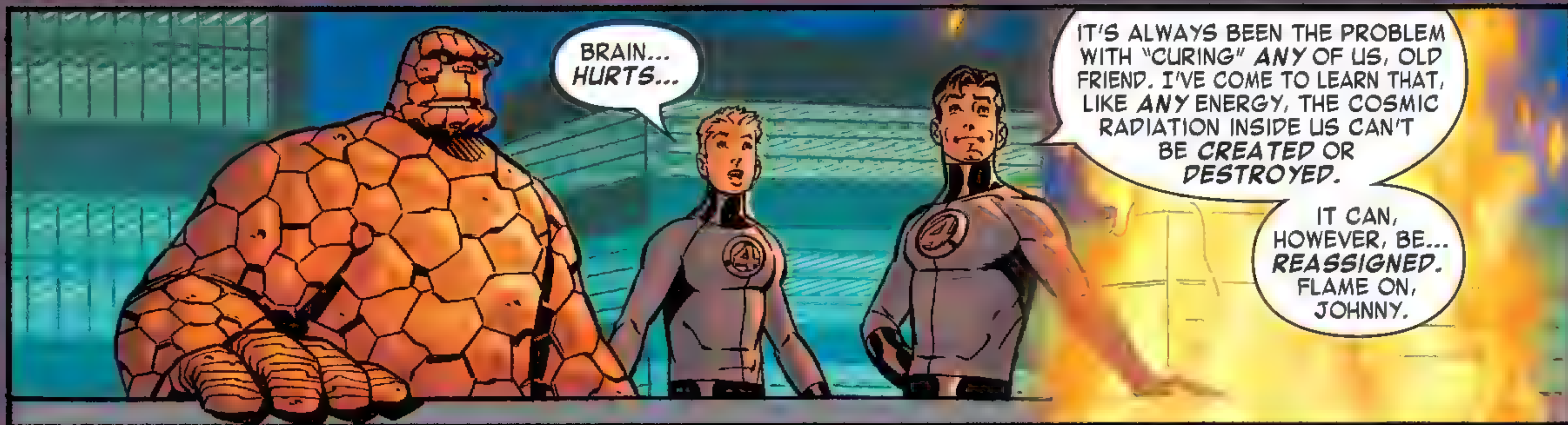
BUT...  
BUT...

ALL RIGHT.  
THEY'RE SAFELY ON  
THEIR WAY. BEST IF  
THERE'S NO CHANCE  
OF THEM SEEING  
THIS.









BRAIN...  
HURTS...

IT'S ALWAYS BEEN THE PROBLEM  
WITH "CURING" ANY OF US, OLD  
FRIEND. I'VE COME TO LEARN THAT,  
LIKE ANY ENERGY, THE COSMIC  
RADIATION INSIDE US CAN'T  
BE **CREATED** OR  
**DESTROYED**.

IT CAN,  
HOWEVER, BE...  
**REASSIGNED**.  
FLAME ON,  
JOHNNY.



HUBBITABUBBITA...!

WELL,  
I'LL BE!

YA  
SWAPPED 'EM!  
YOU SWAPPED SUZIE  
'N' BICHEAD'S  
POWERS!



HEY! HEY!  
HOW DO I  
TURN THIS  
OFF?

HAW!  
DON'T BOTHER,  
JUNIOR! IT'S A  
GOOD LOOK  
F'R YA!



THIS  
IS...

...THIS  
IS AMAZING!  
FOR A **SECOND**, I  
WAS AFRAID...WHAT  
WITH BEING ON FIRE  
AND ALL...

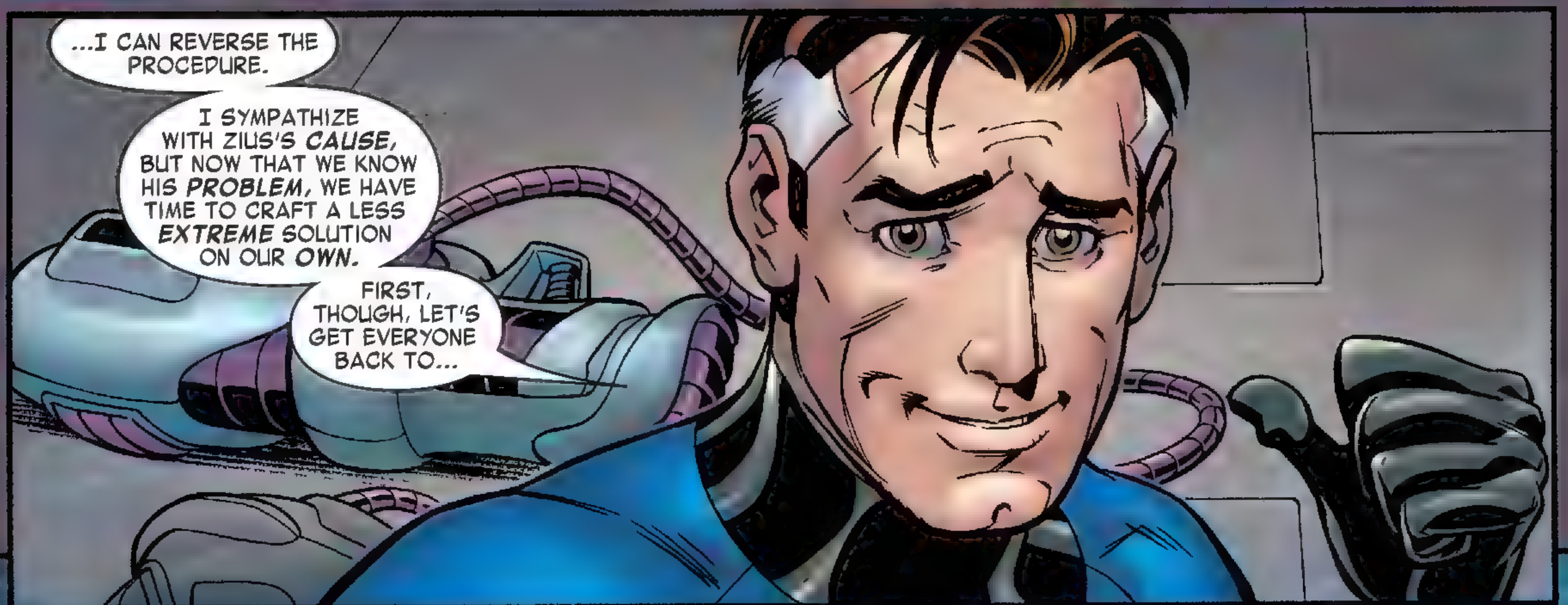
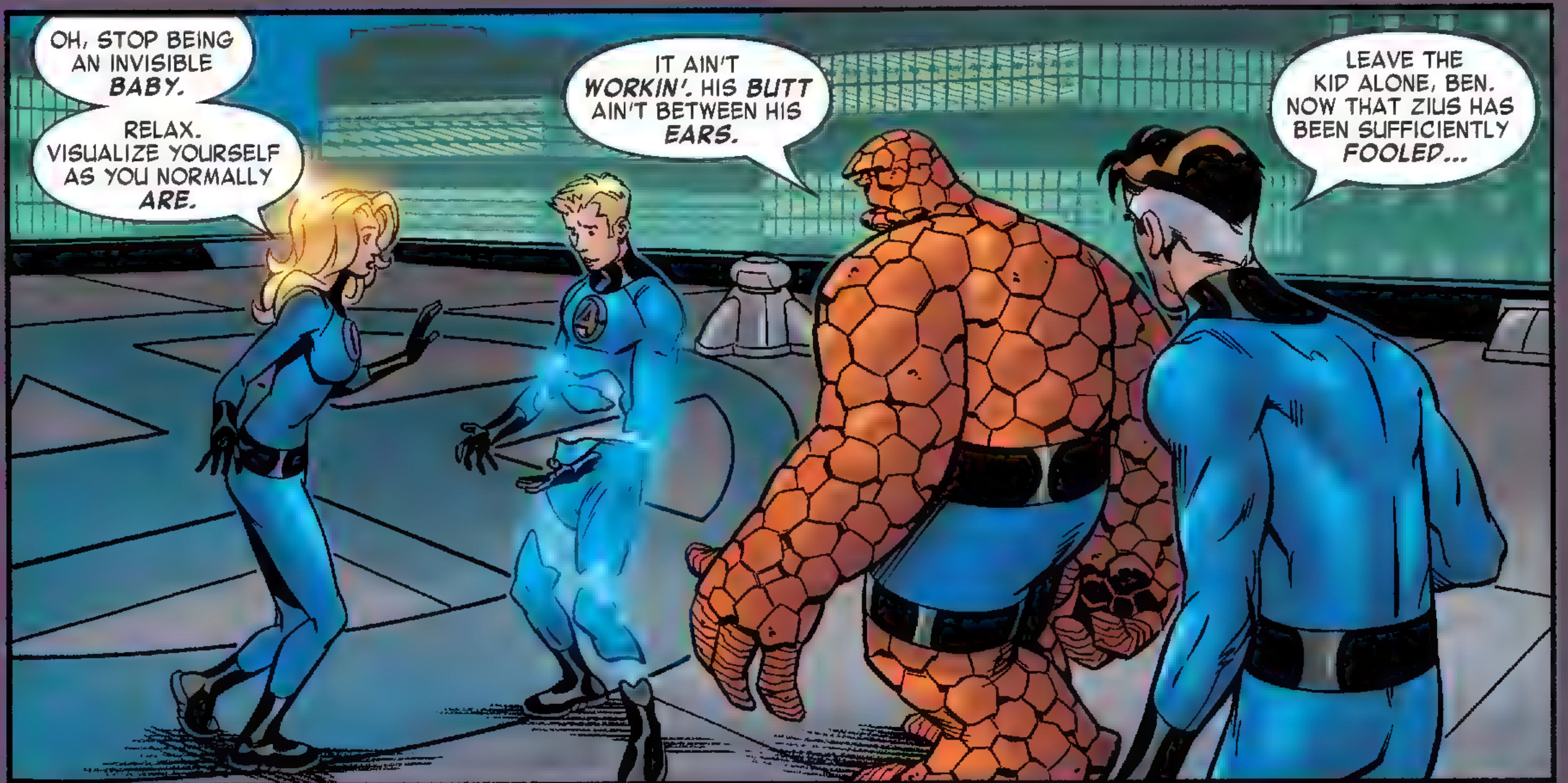
...BUT IT'S  
SUCH A...A  
RELEASE!

JOHNNY,  
I HAD NO  
IDEA IT FELT  
THIS GOOD  
TO JUST CUT  
LOOSE!

I WILL  
BE MUCH  
HAPPIER FOR  
YOU WHEN YOU  
FIX ME.

P.S.  
**AAAAAAAAAAAAH!**

















GALACTUS.





ZIUS HAD HIS ENERGY-FIELD  
OVER THE CITY...JAMMING MY  
INSTRUMENTS...

I THOUGHT  
WE HAD MORE  
TIME! I HAD NO IDEA  
HE WAS ACTUALLY  
APPROACHING!



EVERYONE!  
SCRAMBLE TO  
BATTLE  
POSITIONS  
BEFORE--











JOHNNY,  
ARE YOU  
HURT?

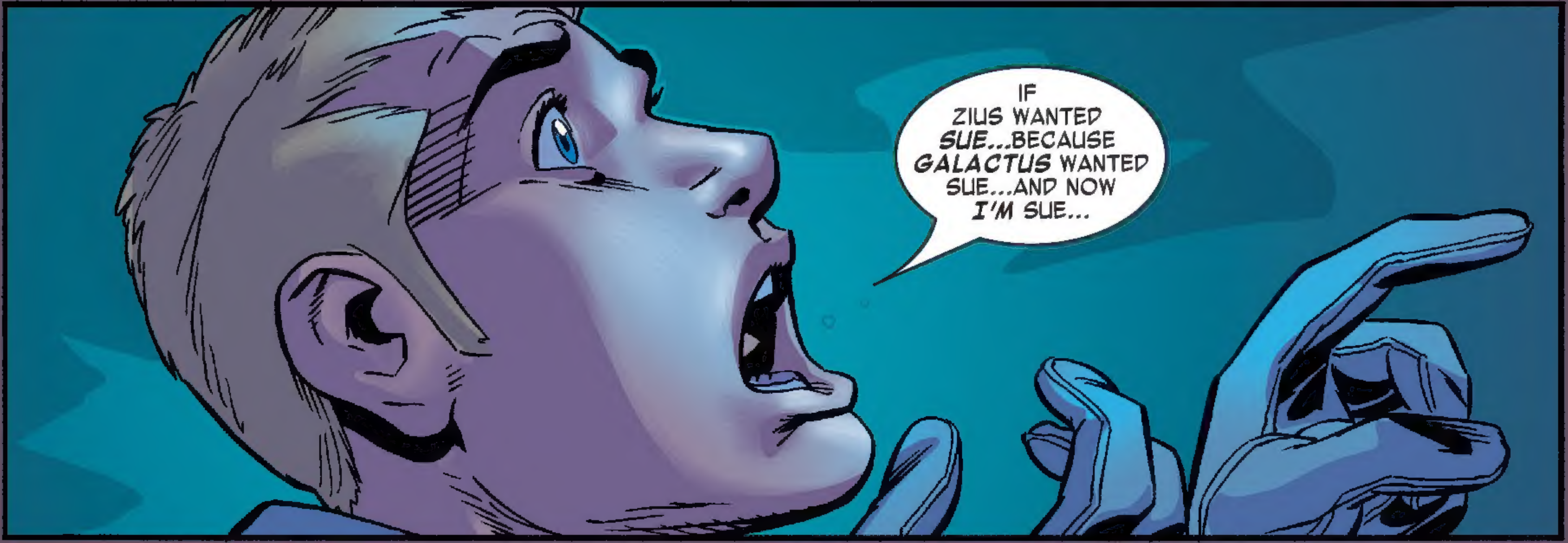
I'M  
TINGLY.  
WHY? I LOOK  
NORMAL, RIGHT?  
RIGHT?

THAT EFFECT...  
WE'VE *SEEN* THAT  
TRANSFORMATION  
BEFORE...



TRANSFORMA--?

OH. HEY.  
NICE THREADS. NOT  
EXACTLY HUGO BOSS,  
BUT I LIKE THE CUT  
HEY, WAAAAAIT  
A MINUTE...



IF  
ZIUS WANTED  
*SUE*...BECAUSE  
*GALACTUS* WANTED  
SUE...AND NOW  
I'M SUE...





...OH, THIS  
BITES.